

WISCONSIN STATE ASSEMBLY

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

JoCasta Zamarripa

Serving the 8th Assembly District

2013 Capitol Review

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

After another year, the 2013 legislative session has drawn to a close. I continue to be disappointed in the Agenda Gov. Walker and legislative Republicans are pursuing. Instead of focusing on jobs, Gov. Walker and Republicans continued their push towards socially extreme and divisive issues in 2013. Instead of helping our workforce, the governor and legislative Republicans continued their crusade against women's health. Instead of creating family-sustaining jobs, Republicans suppressed the rights of voters. This is no way to help our state move forward.

In spite of all this partisan bickering, I have been able to reach across the aisle to work with some of my colleagues on several different issues. Former Representative Jeff Stone and I brought members of our parties together to draft a letter calling on Wisconsin's congressional delegation to support comprehensive immigration reform. Recently, Representative Al Ott has joined with me to reiterate the importance of this reform. Additionally, Representative Joel Kleefisch and I are working together on a bill at the request of distilleries in our districts. **You can read more about it below.**

We still have a lot of work to do and the only way we are going to be able to do it is for both parties to work together. I continue to be honored to be your representative in Madison and will continue to stand up for your rights and beliefs. **Wishing you and your family a blessed and safe holiday season!**

Best Wishes,

JoCasta

Letter Urging Congress to Support

Contact Me



State Capitol

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Si necesita este boletín en español, por favor llama a mi oficina



Immigration Reform

Here is a copy of a letter that my Democratic colleagues and I sent to Wisconsin's Congressional Delegation urging them to support Comprehensive Immigration Reform now.

Dear Representatives Duffy, Kind, Moore, Petri, Pocan, Ribble, Ryan, and Sensenbrenner:

As members of the Wisconsin State Legislature, we continue to believe that comprehensive immigration reform must be addressed by the federal government in a timely manner. With time running out on the 2013 congressional calendar, we again write to encourage you to work to pass a sensible immigration bill before the end of the year. Today, there are 11 million undocumented immigrants living in the shadows in our country with over 100,000 living here, in Wisconsin.

Comprehensive immigration reform has bipartisan support across the country and we are calling upon you to reform our broken immigration system. The American people want and deserve resolution to this important issue and our Congressional delegation must work for immigrant families, business owners, and all Wisconsinites.



Immigration reform must address the issue of the 11 million undocumented immigrants currently residing in our country. A tough, fair, and comprehensive approach to immigration reform should provide a pathway to citizenship for those immigrants who are already residing in our country provided they pass a background check, pay their taxes and a penalty, and get in line behind immigrants who have been waiting years to gain their citizenship.

We also continue to advocate that maintaining the safety and security of the United States is of the utmost importance. As

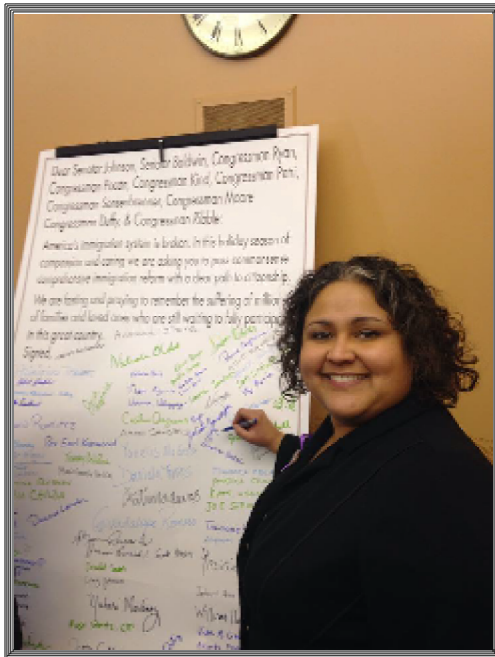
Walking Office Hours



This past fall I tried a new type of outreach: hosting walking office hours. I found it important to be available and accessible to constituents so if you have any new ideas or different outreach methods, please let me know.

members of the Wisconsin State Legislature, we support immigration reform that focuses on public safety, targets serious crime, and provides safeguards for victims and witnesses. We must ensure that law enforcement has the staffing, resources, and tools necessary to enforce immigration laws, protect our borders, and stem the tide of drug smuggling and human trafficking.

In Wisconsin, comprehensive immigration reform would have meant an additional \$33 million in state and local tax revenue in 2010 according to the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office. Immigration reform measures must be flexible in order to address the needs of businesses in various states, with state input, while protecting workers' interests. More specifically, in Wisconsin, we need to ensure that agriculture has a stable workforce. Our dairy industry, which is a driving economic force throughout our state, needs reform measures that go beyond existing seasonal work programs because they are insufficient given the year-round daily requirements of a dairy operation. The positive economic impact of passing comprehensive immigration reform would be substantial in Wisconsin.



Finally, any immigration reform proposal should prioritize keeping families together to ensure the most supportive home environment for all children. Based upon these important components of immigration reform, we are calling upon you to support legislation to enact comprehensive immigration reform with a pathway to citizenship by the end of this calendar year.

We thank you for your time and consideration.

Update on Voting

Over the last three years in Wisconsin, the Republican agenda has been marked by extreme actions and divisive legislation. The latest example is a bill Assembly Republicans passed last week to severely restrict the rights of Wisconsinites to vote.

This bill – which would limit early absentee voting – imposes a statewide mandate that takes away local control, makes the jobs of municipal clerks much more difficult, makes voting lines longer and would lower voter turnout across our state. That's why clerks, local governments and good government groups from across the state registered against this bill – and not a single group registered to support it.



Whether it's heavily gerrymandered redistricting maps, placing new restrictions on elections or any number of measures designed to stop people who don't agree with Republicans from voting, Republicans have done everything they can to thwart the will of the people and make themselves untouchable. Evidence shows that a strong majority of early voters are Democratic voters, so Republicans want to limit that even if it causes problems for local clerks.

The problem in Wisconsin is not that too many people are voting. The real problem is that too few people are working, too few people feel economically secure and too few people can afford to pursue opportunities like job training and going to college. Yet Republicans would still rather undermine democracy than make a serious push to create jobs, strengthen public education and support our middle class.

The agenda Republicans are forcing on our state is harmful and unpopular. It's no wonder they are so afraid of people voting.

Here is a breakdown of the bills that passed the Assembly on the last night of session:

- New Voter ID: this bill is known as AB 394 and was specifically designed to take the place of the previous voter ID bill that is now tied up in the court system. At best, this bill is focusing on a problem that does not exist and at worst it disenfranchises tens of thousands of Wisconsinites who do not have photo IDs. Voting is a fundamental right and instead of restricting people's access to the ballot, we should be encouraging people to participate in our democracy.
- Absentee voting: As discussed above, this bill would limit the hours of early and in-person absentee voting in Wisconsin. In addition to restricting the public's access to vote, this bill, known as AB 54, imposes a "one-size-fits-all" solution on every county and municipality in this state. A large city like Milwaukee would be forced to follow the same regulations as the tiny village of Rockland, with equal hours of operation for vastly different population amounts. Our local governments know the best practices when it comes to running their elections and we should leave it in their capable hands.
- Limiting recalls: Regardless of how you feel about the recent recall elections, almost everyone in Wisconsin knows how sacred and necessary the power of the recall is. But the Republicans are trying to limit the circumstances under which a recall would even be allowed. One of the greatest parts of our democracy is that we have the opportunity to choose our leaders every couple of years. In very serious circumstances though, the people have the right to recall their elected officials and the Legislature should not interfere with that.

Raced-Based Mascots

In a time where our society is moving away from the use of race-based mascots in sports and in schools, our state went backwards, passing AB 297-- a bill that would make it harder to eliminate the use of race-based mascots in our state's public schools. I voted against this bill because these mascots perpetuate racial and cultural stereotypes, regardless of intent. Our public schools need to be a safe place for all of our students and this legislation threatens that safety for many Native American students. An individual who objects to the use of race-based mascots in their school district must petition members of his or her own community in an attempt to reach a certain threshold of support. This is overly burdensome. Can you imagine a law forcing an employee to petition his or her coworkers on an issue of sexual harassment in the workplace? To

me, this requirement is just as ridiculous.



After the bill passed, I wrote Governor Walker a letter, urging him to veto this legislation because discrimination has no place in our public schools. We passed Act 250 in 2010, with bipartisan support, and it was a major step forward for Indian civil rights. While organizations like the National Collegiate Athletic Association and the National Football League move away from the use of race-based mascots, Wisconsin should move forward as well.

Update on the Distilled Spirits Bill

As many of you know, one of the bills that I have been working on this session has been the Distilled Spirits bill which will allow Wisconsin distilleries to offer samples of their products. One of the reasons that I feel so strongly about this project is because it was brought to my attention by the owner of Great Lakes Distillery which is right in my district. They told me that something as simple as allowing customers to sample liquors before they buy them will help their business tremendously as well as that of other Wisconsin distilleries. This bill is a simple way to help local businesses and improve Wisconsin's economic climate.

Earlier this year, the bill was given a public hearing in the

Assembly Committee on State Affairs. Shortly thereafter, that Committee was combined with another committee to form a new State Affairs and Government Operations Committee. What this means is that all the bills that were in the old committees will now have to have new public hearings before they can go to the Assembly floor. I see this as another opportunity for me to tell my colleagues how important this bill is to helping small businesses like Great Lakes Distillery grow their business and improve our economic climate.

As we begin the New Year, I encourage you to contact me and Senator Tim Carpenter with your support for this bill. My phone number is (608) 267-7669 and my email address is rep.zamarripa@legis.wisconsin.gov. Senator Carpenter's contact information is (608) 266-8535 and sen.carpenter@legis.wisconsin.gov. We always love to hear from our constituents.

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